



FIRE DEPARTMENT

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

SAFETY TIPS

- CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home including the basement. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries.
- If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call 911.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call 911 from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors, and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use them outside.

PREVENTION IS THE KEY TO AVOIDING CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING.

DO have your fuel-burning appliances – including oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, gas or kerosene space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves – inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season. Make certain that the flues and chimneys are connected, in good condition, and not blocked.

DO choose appliances that vent their fumes to the outside whenever possible, have them properly installed, and maintain them according to manufacturer's instructions.

DON'T idle the car in a garage – even if the garage door to the outside is open. Fumes can build up very quickly in the garage and living area of your home.

DON'T use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short time.

DON'T ever use a charcoal grill indoors – even in a fireplace.

DON'T sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.

DON'T use any gasoline-powered engines (mowers, weed trimmers, snow blowers, chain saws, small engines, or generators) in enclosed spaces.

DON'T ignore symptoms, particularly if more than one person is feeling them. You could lose consciousness and die if you do nothing.

Common signs & symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure:

- Headaches
- Nausea (feeling sick)
- Dizziness
- Tiredness
- Feeling confused
- Vomiting (being sick)
- Abdominal pains (chest pains)
- Erratic behavior

Exposure to a small amount of carbon monoxide over a long period of time can also cause:

- Confusion
- Memory loss
- Poor coordination

What should I do if I think carbon monoxide is present in the home?

- Switch off the appliance you think is causing the leak
- Turn off the gas supply into the home via the isolation valve
- Open all doors and windows to assist the ventilation of the room
- If the leak still continues call 911

And do not:

- Sleep in the house
- Turn on or off any electrical appliances while there is a strong presence of carbon monoxide in the home